

ISO 14001 Definitions



ISO 14001 DEFINITIONS

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



The definition section of the ISO 14001 standard provides the foundation of the entire standard. They need to be understood is the standard is to be implemented.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)

"3.1 -- Continual Improvement

Process of enhancing the environmental management system to achieve improvements in overall environmental performance in line with the organization's environmental policy.

NOTE -- The process need not take place in all areas of activity simultaneously."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Continual improvement in this usage applies only to the environmental management system. It does not directly apply to environmental performance. It is assumed that if the environmental management system is improved that environmental performance will also improve.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)

"3.2 -- Environment

Surroundings in which an organization operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation.

NOTE -- Surroundings in this context extend from within an organization to the global system."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Includes environment and natural resources,
but does not require the inclusion of safety
and industrial hygiene.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)

"3.3 -- Environmental Aspect

Element of an organization's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment.

NOTE -- A significant environmental aspect is an environmental aspect that has or can have a significant environmental impact."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



“Interact” -- positive, neutral or negative

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



"3.4 -- Environmental Impact

Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



The combination of environmental aspects with the environmental impacts is the first step in establishing the significance of the environmental aspect.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)

“3.5 -- Environmental Management System

The part of the overall management system that includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the environmental policy.”

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



“3.6 -- Environmental Management System Audit

A systematic and documented verification process of objectively obtaining and evaluating evidence to determine whether an organization's environmental management system conforms to the environmental management system audit criteria set by the organization, and for communication of the results of this process to management.”

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Checking to see if the EMS is being implemented properly at every appropriate level of the organization.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



"3.7 -- Environmental Objective

Overall environmental goal, arising from the environmental policy, that an organization sets itself to achieve, and which is quantifiable where practicable."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Specific goals that must be set to
implement the environmental policy.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



“3.8 -- Environmental Performance

Measurable results of the environmental management system, related to an organization's control of its environmental aspects, based upon its environmental policy, objective and targets.”

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



“3.9 -- Environmental Policy

Statement by the organization of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance which provides a framework for action and for the setting of its environmental objectives and targets.”

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



The entire environmental management system is designed to meet the commitments of the environmental policy. It provides the framework for setting the environmental objectives and targets.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



"3.10 -- Environmental Target

Detailed performance requirement, quantified where practicable, applicable to the organization or parts thereof, that arises from the environmental objectives and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Detailed performance requirement that
arise from environmental objective.
Must be measurable and quantifiable.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



"3.11 -- Interested Party

Individual or group concerned with or affected by the environmental performance of an organization."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)

"3.12 -- Organization

Company, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private, that has its own functions and administration.

NOTE -- For organizations with more than one operating unit, a single operating unit may be defined as an organization."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)

"3.13 -- Prevention of Pollution

Use of processes, practices, materials or products that avoid, reduce or control pollution, which may include recycling, treatment, process changes, control mechanisms, efficient use of resources and material substitution.

NOTE -- The potential benefits of prevention of pollution include the reduction of adverse environmental impacts, improved efficiency and reduced costs."

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



The organization must commit to review and utilize where appropriate the following prevention of pollution techniques -- recycling, treatment, process change, control mechanisms, efficient use of resources and material substitution.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Non-ISO 14001 Definitions

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Conformance

The condition or fact of being in harmony or agreement; correspondence; congruity; similarity.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Compliance

Complying, or giving in to a request, demand, wish, etc. Also--in compliance with, in accordance with.

ISO 14001 Definitions (cont..)



Conformance is utilized in ISO 14001.
Compliance is associated with command
and control activities such as
environmental laws.